

Seattle City Council

**Neighborhoods, Arts, & Civil Rights Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, 2 PM, February 25, 2003

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Christopher J. Jarmick**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Christopher J. Jarmick**

Christopher J. Jarmick ,was born on the East Coast lived in Los Angeles for way too long and has called Seattle home for about 10 years. He wrote screenplays and worked extensively as a television producer director, writer and documentary film-maker (KCET PBS L.A.). His credits include: Hard Copy, Entertainment Tonight, and Square One T.V. He's the co-author of the critically acclaimed mystery suspense novel, The Glass Cocoon with Serena F. Holder. He's written screenplays, television pilots, an award winning one-act play, short stories, film reviews, newspaper and magazine articles, essays and poetry. His articles and film reviews have been published in The Seattle Times, Beacon Hill Journal, Senses of Cinema, Cult Cuts Magazine, The Brutarian, Military Times, Mid-West Book Review, Mystery Readers Journal, Substance Books, 24 Frames per Second, Valley Update Magazine and others. His poetry has been published in the South District Journal, PoetsWest Literary Journal, Cambridge Book Review, Real Change, Peeks and Valleys and others. Chris is the President of PEN-WASHINGTON, the local chapter of the international writing organization started by people like D.H. Lawrence, H.G. Wells and Joseph Conrad. Pen holds panel discussions for writers at Richard Hugo House, the third Tuesday of the month ten times a year. He is featured in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Entertainment. Chris hosts two poetry series in Seattle. One is at Lottie Motts in Columbia City on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month and the other is at The Otis Café on First Hill in Seattle on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (The Otis series ends February 2003). He works part time tutoring 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children in reading. Chris is married with three daughters and lives south of Seward Park above Pritchard Beach.

## **New Year Poem**

By Christopher J. Jarmick

Bittersweet year ends quietly,  
under pale moon.  
A thick fog of sadness  
envelopes many.  
A few cling to their hopes and dreams  
but ground has been lost  
as those we have given too much power to  
are deciding War is a preferable way  
to solve complicated problems.

I will kneel and say some prayers  
in a church that has ripped the innocence  
out of too many souls, while keeping  
too many secrets for too long.  
We still can't be trusted in the dark.

Many heads turn away from bright lights  
believing further disappointment  
is avoided by pretending to know less.  
It won't hurt as much, we reason,  
if we don't see it coming.  
The holes where the disenfranchised hide  
are being covered up  
by those who've discovered shoveling dirt  
is both good exercise and practice.

I light a candle tonight,  
drink a toast with bitter wine  
to all of those who've held on.  
Those who've kept their families  
on high ground  
with ideals that now make  
fewer dollars,  
but still make more sense.

To the Happy New Year Baby,  
May she dream in colors  
trust the darkness  
love the light  
hold on to childhood  
remember longer than yesterday  
and give birth to several tomorrows.

## **Unassembled**

By Christopher J. Jarmick

The Homeless;  
passed on the street;  
ignored;  
not picked to be on any team;  
left out.

They might be  
snow men,  
snow women,  
unassembled.

Tossed to the ground,  
waiting to be  
molded into something  
the sun can  
melt;

then evaporate  
into the sky  
to one day fall;  
unassembled to the ground  
once more.

-- *END* --